

What does the word "Meh" mean to you? Or how about "Jargonaut" and "Frenemy"? Those are just three of the words chosen by people in Britain for inclusion in the next edition of the Collins English Dictionary. But not everyone's heard of these words, as Rob Norris reports:

The way we speak and write changes all the time. Expressions which once sounded "**supercool**" or "hip" can end up sounding a bit "**naff**" - or even "**pants**". Compiling dictionaries to keep up with the **ebb and flow** of the English language is a full-time job. Hundreds of people in Britain came forward with suggestions for the new dictionary.

The most popular was "Meh" - spelt M-E-H - an expression to show that you're unimpressed - that something's **mediocre** or boring. "Meh" is thought to have originated in the United States and it's becoming increasingly common in speech, emails and text messages worldwide. Other popular suggestions included "Jargonaut" - a person who uses lots of jargon, and "Frenemy" - an enemy who falsely portrays **themselves** as a friend. So do people in central London recognise these new words? Let's try "Jargonaut" first:

VOX POPs: - I would have said it was **something to do with a juggernaut**, but that's just me!

- Jargonaut... I don't believe I've **come across** that before - I can hazard a guess - someone who is proficient in the use of jargon - business-speak, that kind of thing - you know "out of the box" and all that sort of nonsense!

- Frenemy... well I have heard it before, and I think it's to do with a mixture between friend and enemy, and it's someone that you have to be nice to, even though you don't want to be.

- Meh? Meh...I must admit **I'm drawing a blank on** that one.

- I would say it's a shortened version of "nightmare", as in "I'm having a mare" ... "I'm having a nightmare".

So "Meh!" could take a while **to catch on** - and some people may hope that it never does.

Rob Norris, BBC

Vocabulary and definitions

supercool	(informal) very modern and fashionable
naff	(informal) worthless, tacky, unfashionable
pants	(informal) very disappointing
ebb and flow	the way in which something regularly changes depending on a situation
mediocre	unoriginal; adequate or acceptable, but not very good
themselves	(nonstandard) reflexive and emphatic form of 'them' when 'them' is used as a non-gender-specific singular pronoun
something to do with a juggernaut	relating to or describing a very big lorry
come across	seen or heard
I'm drawing a blank on	I have never seen or heard; I have no idea about
to catch on	here, to become commonly used

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